



Shimer

The Great Books College of Chicago

Catalog 2011-2013



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MISSION STATEMENT

Shimer College provides and preserves education centered on discussion of enduring questions and issues. Historically influential original sources are studied through Socratic questioning in small seminar classes, following the kind of Great Books curriculum advocated by Robert Maynard Hutchins. The core values informing education at Shimer are free inquiry, dialog, critical open-mindedness, and integration of disciplines. The College offers all members of its community the opportunity to participate meaningfully in deciding the future of the institution. A Shimer education demands much of both the intellect and the character of students, and prepares them for responsible citizenship and the examined life.

The Shimer Difference Is . . .

. . . In Academics

Shimer College, the Great Books College of Chicago, is a small, four-year, private liberal arts college. Every course at Shimer features original source readings written by major authors and thinkers. The core curriculum gives students a strong background in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. Classes are limited to 12 students, and are guided by a faculty member who is an active participant in the learning process. Shimer's student/faculty ratio assures the availability of frequent personal attention for all students.

. . . In Educational Opportunities

Shimer's location on the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) campus offers students access to a large number of academic and extra-curricular options. This unique partnership between a school focused on timeless ideas and a school focused on cutting-edge technology gets to the heart of what it means to be an educated citizen. Shimer students have access to advanced science and technology courses at IIT in addition to music theory and practice courses at the VanderCook College of Music, also located on the IIT campus. Shimer also offers an overseas program in Oxford, England, in which upper-level students study under the guidance of a Shimer faculty member and Oxford tutors.

. . . In College Governance

Shimer is a political community as well as an educational institution. Many major policy decisions within the College are made under the auspices of the internal governing body of the College, the Assembly. The Assembly is comprised of all members of the Shimer College community. Each person has one vote. Because the Assembly and its committees make major policy decisions, students have the capacity to influence the operation of the College and to assume its responsibilities as well as enjoying its benefits.

. . . In Community Life

As a social community, Shimer prides itself on fostering the egalitarian values of a democratic society. Sororities and fraternities and other organizations which promote exclusivity based on sex, age, national origin, economic or academic status, or any other basis are not supported. Community activities include guest lectures, topical discussions, theater, chess, movies, nights at the opera, and ethnic dining. Students have access to all the benefits of Chicago and often plan group outings together.

. . . In Student Profiles

Shimer attracts a wide variety of students and encourages respect for differences, tolerance, and personal responsibility. Shimer students tend to be creative thinkers, many of whom have not found personal satisfaction in more standard educational settings. Shimer students are questioners—and Shimer seeks to promote that quality. The College looks for students who are serious about learning and committed to the original sources and group discussion model of classical education. Such students often flourish in Shimer’s unconventional atmosphere.

. . . In Shimer Graduates

The majority of Shimer graduates go on to graduate and professional schools. The Ph.D. rate for Shimer graduates is among the highest in the nation. Nearly a quarter of Shimer alums are employed in education, from elementary through college level. Others work in professions ranging from law to philanthropy, from religious organizations to marketing.

Philosophy of Education

Shimer’s educational philosophy is based on active rather than passive learning, on participatory education rather than lectures. Shimer affirms that the educational process must be intellectually stimulating and challenging; that the classroom should foster clarity in thought, speech, and writing; that the highest purpose of a liberal arts education is to encourage the formation and internalization of reasoned attitudes, concerns, and values; and that active participation in discussion is a powerful method of developing the critical and creative faculties of a student.

At Shimer the instructor is a guide who provokes questions, suggests approaches to the course materials, and directs the flow of discussion. Through the process of mutual inquiry, students and faculty become partners in the learning experience. The small size of each Shimer class allows everyone’s voice to be heard.

Shimer College pursues the highest yet most intangible benefit of education, the development of the whole person. Shimer develops the student’s potential for active thought through a common heritage of fundamental ideas and seminal works. In doing so, it prepares the student for the various offices of life and duties of citizenship regardless of vocational choice. Shimer College holds that a liberal arts education is fundamental for democratic citizenship. A democratic society, in which one has freedom and assumes responsibility, elevates every member to its highest and only permanent public office, the office of citizen.

Undergraduate Programs

Weekday Program

The Weekday Program meets on Mondays through Fridays. Most students are of traditional college age, although students’ ages have ranged from fifteen to fifty. The vast majority take

a full-time course load of between twelve and eighteen credits. Students may also enroll part-time. Some Weekday Program students commute, but most live in campus housing or nearby apartments. Most courses are worth five credits, meeting three times per week for eighty-minute periods.

Weekend Program

The Weekend Program is designed to address the needs of an adult population who find it difficult to attend classes on weekdays. The program provides adults with the education offered in the Weekday Program while they meet work and family responsibilities. Weekend Program students, who range in age from twenty to seventy, participate in an intensive schedule of classes every third weekend during the semester. Weekend Program students can take a full academic course load each semester, enabling them to earn a bachelor's degree in four years, or less with transfer credit. Students may also enroll part-time.

Early Enrollment

Highly motivated high school students who want to begin college without having graduated from high school are welcome to apply to enroll in Shimer's Early Entrant Program, in operation since 1950. Students accepted for the Early Entrant Program at Shimer take the same college-level courses as all other students in the Weekday Program. Any student aged 16 or above and having the potential to benefit from a Shimer education will be seriously considered for admission.

Concurrent Enrollment

Motivated local high school and home-schooled students who would like to take advantage of Shimer courses while completing their requirements for high school graduation are welcome to apply for Concurrent Enrollment. These students benefit from college before embarking on a full college program. Such students are permitted to take Shimer courses at a reduced cost for full college credit.

B.A. to J.D. Program

Incoming Shimer students in any undergraduate program are eligible to apply to participate in an a joint program with Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law that will allow them to complete a bachelor's degree and law degree in six years -- one year ahead of the average time to earn both degrees.

The B.A. to J.D. program is designed so that students will spend their first three years at Shimer and the last three at Chicago-Kent. The fourth-year curriculum for the bachelor's degree overlaps with the first year of law school studies. Students in the program who satisfy all requirements -- including completion of a minimum of 90 semester hours at Shimer -- will be assured of a place in Chicago-Kent's first-year class.

Core Curriculum

Robert Maynard Hutchins, the longtime President of the University of Chicago, developed a curriculum that required students to immerse themselves in the landmark works that represent the best and most influential thinking of our tradition. The core (required) curriculum at Shimer College consists of sequences of courses featuring these renowned works. Remaining credits are taken from among elective offerings at Shimer College, or from courses at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) or the VanderCook College of Music.

The Shimer College Core Curriculum			
Basic Core Studies			
Humanities 1 Art and Music	Natural Science 1 Laws and Models in Chemistry	Social Sciences 1 Society, Culture, and Personality	
Humanities 2 Poetry, Drama, and Fiction	Natural Science 2 Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior	Social Sciences 2 The Western Political Tradition	Integrative Studies 2 Foundations of Mathematics and Logic
The Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination			
Advanced Area Core Studies			
Humanities 3 Philosophy and Theology	Natural Sciences 3 The Nature of Light	Social Sciences 3 Modern Theories of Society and Politics	
Humanities 4 Modern Currents in the Humanities	Natural Sciences 4 Modern Scientific Revolutions	Social Sciences 4 Social Perspectives and Social Action	
The Area Studies Comprehensive Examination			
Advanced Integrative Core Studies			
Integrative Studies 5 History and Philosophy of Western Civilization (Ancient World to the Middle Ages)		Integrative Studies 6 History and Philosophy of Western Civilization (Renaissance to the Present)	
Senior Thesis			

All of the Basic Core Courses (Humanities 1 and 2, Natural Sciences 1 and 2, Social Sciences 1 and 2, and Integrative Studies 2) are taken early in the student's academic program at Shimer. The Basic Core Courses emphasize careful reading, thoughtful discussion, and clear analytic writing. Students in these courses are guided in discovering and analyzing the central questions and ideas in the readings they study.

Following the successful completion of the Basic Core Courses, students take the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination, in which they are required to demonstrate their skills in comprehension and analysis. Successful completion of this examination indicates their readiness for more advanced academic work.

In the Advanced Core Courses, the first six of which are Humanities 3 and 4, Natural Sciences 3 and 4, and Social Sciences 3 and 4, seminal works are explored in a more detailed and focused way than in the Basic Core Courses. The works studied and skills developed in the earlier courses are brought to bear in this second stage.

The Area Studies Comprehensive Examination is taken in one of the major areas (Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences) after successful completion of all core courses in that area. This examination requires students to display a mastery of the basic questions, methods of investigation, and principles which organize a body of knowledge.

The final level of the Core Curriculum consists of the two Advanced Integrative Studies courses, Integrative Studies 5 and 6. In these courses, taken during the last full year of study at Shimer, students bring together both the broad knowledge from their Basic Studies Core Courses and the more focused approach characteristic of the Advanced Studies Core Courses. Students are expected to synthesize what they have learned at Shimer and to come to understand the interrelationships among the cultural, economic, political, philosophical, and religious achievements of each era in the history of Western civilization. Students taking these courses also enroll in for-credit work in Thesis, as they are expected to undertake and complete a Senior Thesis during that period.

The Core Curriculum is carefully designed to provide a context for the integration between the various areas of study, and for integration between ideas. Reading lists may vary slightly from year to year.

The Humanities

The four core Humanities courses acquaint students with imaginative representations and systematic explorations of the conditions of human existence. Great works of art and music are seen and heard. Seminal works by philosophers and theologians are read and discussed. Students learn to recognize and understand various techniques of persuasion, then apply that understanding to their own oral and written communication.

HUMANITIES 1: Art and Music

Humanities 1 consists of investigation of the elements and forms of the musical and visual arts. This course is primarily dedicated to the tasks of active listening and viewing. No previous training in music or facility at drawing or painting is presumed. Working with fundamental concepts in music and painting, students develop a rich vocabulary with which to discuss, describe, and experience music and the visual arts.

Reading List: HUMANITIES 1

Albers, *Interaction of Color*
Alberti, *On Painting*
Balzac, "Unknown Masterpiece"
Cooper, *Learning to Listen*
Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"
Plato, "Ion"
Taylor, *Learning to Look*
Vasari, *Lives of the Artists*
Art by Cézanne, Picasso, da Vinci and others
Music by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and others

HUMANITIES 2: Poetry, Drama, and Fiction

Humanities 2 introduces students to imaginative Western literature. The course features poetry, epic, drama, and fiction from ancient Greece to the present day, and explores a variety of approaches to narrative and the use of language to create an imagined reality. Selected works of literary criticism are also included.

Humanities 2 is a Designated Writing Course. Course instructors work intensively with students on their writing.

Reading List: HUMANITIES 2

Norton Anthology of Poetry
Homer, *Odyssey*
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*, *Antigone*
Aristotle, *Poetics*
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Dostoevsky, *Brothers Karamazov*
O'Connor, short stories
Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

HUMANITIES 3: Philosophy and Theology

Humanities 3 introduces students to philosophy, theology, and the Bible. Concentrating on significant texts in each discipline from antiquity until the early the nineteenth century, the course investigates their distinctive methods of approach, their use of logic and narrative, and the problems they seek to solve. (Prerequisites: Humanities 1 and 2)

Reading List: HUMANITIES 3

Plato, *Apology*, *Crito*, *Phaedo*, *Phaedrus*, *Symposium*
Aristotle, *Metaphysics*
Holy Bible
St. Augustine, *Confessions*
St. Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion*
St. Teresa of Ávila, *Autobiography*
Descartes, *Meditations*
Pascal, *Pensées*

Locke, *Essay on Human Understanding*
Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

HUMANITIES 4: Modern Currents in the Humanities

Humanities 4 investigates various important twentieth-century movements in the humanities. The course readings begin with late eighteenth and nineteenth century precursors to those movements which present some of the key ideas that helped to shape them. Following that initial study of earlier writings, several significant currents within and approaches to the humanities will be explored in detail. (Prerequisite: Humanities 3)

Reading List: HUMANITIES 4

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*
Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil, Birth of Tragedy*
Heidegger, *Introduction to Metaphysics*
20th-century works on aesthetics, phenomenology, postmodernism, and semiotics

The Natural Sciences

Appreciation and understanding of science as a human activity, along with the technical competence to work with the language and models used in science, are goals of the Natural Sciences sequence. The student travels from the static world of nineteenth-century chemistry through the evolutionary worldview of Darwin to the scientific advances of the twentieth century. The student considers the essence of light and color, as well as the nature of animals and plants, prisms and relativity, and quantum jumps. Emphasis is placed upon developing an understanding not only of the conclusions reached by scientists but also the methods used in reaching those conclusions.

NATURAL SCIENCES 1: Laws and Models in Chemistry

Natural Sciences 1 addresses the question, "What is the world made of?" The course begins with the study of the responses of Ancient Greek philosophers to that question, including Democritus' theory of atoms, and concludes with Curie's unnerving revelation that the "un-cuttable" atom might be divisible into smaller pieces. The course focuses upon several key concepts, such as weight, structure, and complexity, in an attempt to understand the material basis of the world.

Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 1

Aristotle, *Physics*
Wheelwright, *Presocratics*
Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*
Lavoisier, *Elements of Chemistry*
Bacon, *New Organon*
Cannizzaro, *Sketch of a Course of Chemical Philosophy*
Selections from Boyle, Avogadro, Gay-Lussac, Joule, Pascal, Faraday, Dulong, Stahl, Priestly, Thompson, Dalton, Clausius, and Curie

NATURAL SCIENCES 2: Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior

Natural Sciences 2 explores the interaction among living organisms. Consideration is given to the level of genetic units within the organism, the level of species, the environmental level, and the level of human concern. The concept of evolution provides groundwork for this inquiry into biological organization. The relationships between evolution, genetics, the environment, and animal behavior are foci for investigation and discussion.

Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 2

Aristotle, *On the Soul, Parts of Animals*

Paley, *Natural Theology*

Cuvier, *Revolutionary Upheavals on the Surface of the Globe*

Lamarck, *Zoological Philosophy*

Darwin, *Origin of Species, Descent of Man*

Mendel, "Experiments in Plant Hybridization"

Lorenz, *On Aggression*

Goodall, *Chimpanzees of Gombe*

Gould, *Panda's Thumb*

NATURAL SCIENCES 3: The Nature of Light

Natural Sciences 3 explores the nature of light. Students examine the development of the theories of falling bodies, gravitation, and electromagnetic forces in order to better understand optical phenomena. The investigation of physical theories includes exploration of such crucial scientific questions as these: What phenomena need to be explained? How are they explained? What constitutes a satisfactory explanation? (Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, Integrative Studies 2, and the Mathematics Examination)

Natural Sciences 3 is a Designated Writing Course. Course instructors work intensively with students on their writing.

Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 3

Galileo, *Dialogues Concerning the Two New Sciences*

Newton, *Opticks, Principia*

Huygens, *Treatise on Light*

Selections from Ørsted, Young, Fresnel, du Fay, Franklin, Faraday, Hertz, and Maxwell

NATURAL SCIENCES 4: Modern Scientific Revolutions

Natural Sciences 4 focuses on the dramatic developments since the end of the nineteenth century, when both physics and biology moved from a macroscopic to a microscopic focus. This development revealed the perplexities involved in relating the microscopic world uncovered by science to everyday human experience. The course focuses on understanding the microscopic and statistical aspects of the workings of the world and then relating them to our own experiences of that world. (Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 2 and 3)

Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 4

Einstein, *Relativity*
Schrödinger, *What is Life?*
Heisenberg, "Science in the Twentieth Century"
Gamow, *Thirty Years That Shook Physics*
Feynmann, *QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter*
Dyson, *Origins of Life*
Selections from Millikan, Davisson, Spemann, and Crick

The Social Sciences

The four courses in Shimer's core Social Sciences sequence attempt to organize human experiences and analyze them in a disciplined manner. Social Sciences 1 delves into sociology, psychology, anthropology, and economics in order to address questions concerning the nature of society and the individual. Social Sciences 2 introduces the student to several main currents of thought in the Western political tradition, particularly those that have informed the American political system. Social Sciences 3 brings together the perspectives of the first two courses in order to consider critical studies of contemporary society. An examination of the relationship between social perspectives and social action is the chief focus of Social Sciences 4.

SOCIAL SCIENCES 1: Society, Culture, and Personality

Social Sciences 1 introduces students to major disciplines within the social sciences – anthropology, psychology, and sociology – through the study of influential original texts in those fields. This course focuses on the nature of individual persons and the interrelationship and interaction between those individuals and their cultural and social world. It aims to give a better understanding of how individuals live, develop, and are affected by their culture.

Social Sciences 1 is a Designated Writing Course. Course instructors work intensively with students on their writing.

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 1

Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*
James, *Psychology: the Briefer Course*
Freud, lectures on psychoanalysis
Piaget, *Moral Judgment of the Child*
Kohlberg, "Moral Stages and Moralization"
Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality"
Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*
Durkheim, *Suicide*
Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*
Marx, selections
Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 2: The Western Political Tradition

Social Sciences 2 traces the development of the Western political tradition and the development of the US political system through the study of influential original texts in Western political thought. Course readings address questions about the nature of laws and the authority of the state. Students study in detail the meanings of many of the most significant words in politics, including freedom, liberty, equality, power, and responsibility.

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 2

Plato, *Republic*
Aristotle, *Politics*
Aquinas, "Treatise on Law"
Machiavelli, *Prince*
Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*
Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*
Rousseau, *Social Contract*
Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*
Douglass, *Story of My Life*
United States Declaration of Independence
United States Constitution
Federalist Papers

SOCIAL SCIENCES 3: Modern Theories of Society and Politics

Social Sciences 3 examines and critiques the Western political tradition, continuing the survey of Western political thought initiated in Social Sciences 2 while also furthering investigation of many of the questions addressed in Social Sciences 1. The course features nineteenth and twentieth century works which offer various ways of comprehending the social, psychological, economic, and political structure of the modern world. (Prerequisites: Social Sciences 1 and 2)

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 3

de Tocqueville, *On Democracy in America*
Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*
Marx, selections
Mill, *On Liberty*
Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
Marshall, *Principles of Economics*
Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
Sartre, *Dirty Hands*
de Beauvoir, *Second Sex*
Arendt, *Human Condition*
Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 4: Social Perspectives and Social Action

Social Sciences 4 introduces conceptual frameworks and methodologies used in the social sciences and examines how they have been applied in modern social and political life.

Special attention is given to the integration of theory and practice. The course directly examines issues such as the meaning of scientific validity, the status of claims about objectivity in the social sciences, and ethical issues in scientific research. (Prerequisite: Social Sciences 3)

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 4

Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Weber, texts on method

Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*

Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia*

Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures*

Keller, *Feminism and Science*

Berger and Luckmann, *Social Construction of Reality*

Selections on economics by Hayek, Keynes, Galbraith, and Friedman

Basic Integrative Studies

The lone Basic Integrative Studies course, Integrative Studies 2, develops skills that are held by Shimer College to be necessary for individuals to regard themselves as educated. These skills include systematic reasoning and precision of expression. The advanced Integrative Studies courses serve to unify the history of Western thought, as well as Shimer's entire core curriculum up to that point.

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 2: Foundations of Mathematics and Logic

Integrative Studies 2 features the study of the foundations of mathematics and logic. This course includes a variety of logical, mathematical, and geometrical systems, both ancient and modern, that demonstrate both the power and the limitations of mathematics. The course is designed to increase students' abilities to think logically and express themselves with precision.

Reading List: INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 2

Euclid, *Elements*, Volume 1

Aristotle, *On Interpretation*, *Prior Analytics*, *Posterior Analytics*

Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, *Rules for the Direction of the Mind*

Einstein, *Relativity*

Lobachevsky, "Geometrical Investigations on the Theory of Parallel Lines"

Nagel and Newman, *Gödel's Proof*

Advanced Integrative Studies

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 5 and 6: History and Philosophy of Western Civilization

Integrative Studies 5 and 6 comprise a unified sequence of intensive courses that complement the rest of Shimer's core curriculum and emphasize its essential unity. The works in this sequence, selected from major writings that are not studied elsewhere in the

core curriculum, are read chronologically in order to emphasize their historical relationship to one another as part of a “great conversation” throughout Western intellectual history. (Prerequisites: Final-year status and successful completion of the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination)

Reading List: INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 5

Epic of Gilgamesh
Inanna
Homer, *Iliad*
Hesiod, *Theogony*
Holy Bible
Sappho, poetry
Aeschylus, *Oresteia*
Plato, *Republic*
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics, On the Heavens*
Herodotus, *Persian Wars*
Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*
Virgil, *Aeneid*
Ptolemy, *Almagest*
St. Augustine, *City of God*
Beowulf
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*
Alighieri, *Divine Comedy*

Reading List: INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 6

de Pisan, *Treasure of the City of Ladies*
Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*
Luther, “95 Theses”
More, *Utopia*
Copernicus, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*
Kepler, *Epitome of Copernican Astronomy*
Galilei, “Starry Messenger”
Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
Shakespeare, *Tempest*
Bacon, *New Organon*
Milton, *Paradise Lost*
Hume, *Treatise on Human Nature*
Kant, *Foundation of the Metaphysic of Morals*
Goethe, *Faust*
Hegel, *Reason in History*
Nietzsche, *Use and Abuse of History*
Arendt, *Between Past and Future*

Electives

Supplementing the core curriculum are elective courses, which comprise about one-third of each student’s course of study. These electives fall into two categories: Advanced and Basic Skills. Each is described below. Elective offerings are also available by means of cross registration with IIT and the VanderCook College of Music.

Advanced Electives

As part of its degree programs, Shimer College requires Advanced Study of all degree-seeking students. This Advanced Study takes two forms: the Advanced Core courses, required of all degree candidates (see “Core Curriculum”), and Advanced Electives selected by the student with approval of the Dean’s Office. The Advanced Elective courses at Shimer are characterized by in-depth work in a particular field beyond that provided by the Core Curriculum. Most Advanced Electives have Core Curriculum courses as prerequisites.

Recent Advanced Electives have included the following:

Humanities:

- Aristotle's *Metaphysics*
- Jane Austen
- French Enlightenment
- Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
- Nineteenth Century Russian Literature
- Shakespeare: Text and Performance
- Spinoza's *Ethics*
- Women in Fiction
- Virginia Woolf

Additional courses in Music are available through the VanderCook College of Music (see “Cross Registration” below). Additional courses in Art are available through other local institutions of higher education (see the Office of the Dean for details).

Natural Sciences (including Mathematics):

- Bioethics
- Calculus (various levels)
- Cosmology
- Environmental Science
- Evolutionary Biology

Additional courses, including Mathematics, laboratory courses for premedical studies, and advanced Natural Sciences, are available to Shimer students through the Illinois Institute of Technology (see “Cross Registration”).

Social Sciences:

- Psychopathology
- Constitutional Law
- Developmental Psychology
- Freud and his Critics
- G.W.F. Hegel
- Plato's Political Philosophy
- Adam Smith and the Market Society
- Urban Sociology

For students enrolling in the B.A. to J.D. program with Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law (see page 4), the first year of law school counts as the final year of Social Sciences electives at Shimer.

Interdisciplinary:

- Confucianism
- Critical Theory
- Feminist Theory
- Historical Jesus
- Japanese Poetry: Waka, Rengu, Haiku
- Life of the Buddha
- Literature of World War I
- Literature of World War II
- Physics of Music and Sound
- Postmodernism
- Taoism
- Twentieth Century Retrospective
- Zen Masters

Advanced Electives are occasionally offered on a tutorial basis. Tutorials involve a faculty member and a small (1-3) group of students who have successfully completed the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination. Such tutorials are most often made available for students whose academic aspirations indicate the need for advanced specialized courses. Recent tutorial offerings by the Shimer faculty include Advanced Calculus, Advanced Latin, American Woman Writers, Child Psychology, History of Art, Heidegger, and Plato's *Republic*.

Basic Skills Electives

In addition to the Advanced Electives, Shimer also offers a variety of electives devoted to particular skills. These skills include writing (both academic and creative), basic mathematics and statistics, foreign languages, and the arts. Electives and private lessons in music can be arranged through the VanderCook College of Music (see "Cross Registration"). Electives in Art are available through other local institutions of higher education (see the Office of the Dean for details). Unlike the Advanced Study Electives, the skills developed in these courses do not depend upon earlier study in the core curriculum, so that most do not have prerequisites.

Students who wish to study languages may take French, German, Greek, Latin, and Spanish, which are offered periodically depending upon student interest. Students interested in studying other languages may be able to make arrangements with the Dean of the College to obtain private instruction.

Cross Registration with the Illinois Institute of Technology affords Shimer students the opportunity to study additional languages as offered. VanderCook College of Music classes include Music History, Music Theory, Choir, Orchestra, Band, and Music and Technology.

Academic Advising

The office of the Dean of the College oversees the academic advising of each Shimer student. Meetings with Weekday students are scheduled for this purpose each semester. In addition, all first-semester students are scheduled for mid-semester conferences with their instructors and their faculty mentor. Additional advising meetings may be set up on an as-needed basis.

Cross Registration

Students at Shimer College, Illinois Institute of Technology, and VanderCook College of Music have the opportunity to cross register among these three institutions. For information and advising please contact the following:

Shimer students – Assistant Dean of the College

Illinois Institute of Technology students – Office of Educational Services, Main Building 101

VanderCook College of Music students – The appropriate Academic Advisor

Study Abroad

Shimer regularly offers an academic program in Oxford, England. The Shimer-in-Oxford Program is open to upper-level students who apply to participate and are approved on the basis of their previous academic work at Shimer. These students normally take one core course each semester with a Shimer faculty member who also serves as Director of the Shimer-in-Oxford Program. Their other courses are tutorials in their area(s) of interest, taken with respected academics in Oxford. A wide range of courses are available to Shimer students. Tutorials taken by students in the most recent (2010-2011) Shimer-in-Oxford Program included the following:

Butoh
Chinese Literature
Christian Mysticism
Classic Chinese: Laozi and Zhuangzi
Classical Guitar
Comparative Political Economy
Creative Writing
Druidism and Paganism
Economics of the Developing World
French Lyric Poetry
Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*
Heidegger's *Being and Time*
History and Anthropology of Consciousness
History and Practices of Observational Astronomy
History of Ancient Writing Systems
History of England, 16th-18th Centuries
International Finance and Development
Jung

Kelmscott and the Arts and Crafts Movement
Logic
Metaphysics
Modern English Poetry
Neuroscience
Ordinary Language Philosophy
Philosophy of History
Philosophy of Mind
Proust
Psychology of Religion
Social Psychology
Spanish Literature
The US and the Middle East in the 21st Century
US Politics and Government

Writing Program

Shimer College expects disciplined academic writing from all degree candidates. There is no separate English Composition course at Shimer; instead, writing instruction is imbedded in the Core Curriculum. Three of the Core Courses (see “Core Curriculum” above) particularly emphasize the development of clear and persuasive writing. Each student in the Weekday Program who is enrolled in a core course is required to complete a designated writing assignment, usually a Semester Project, during Writing Week at the end of each semester. Finally, each student is required to complete two Comprehensive Examinations, a Research Paper, and a Senior Thesis.

Basic Core Course Papers

Two Basic Core Courses (Humanities 2 and Social Sciences 1) are designated as Writing Courses. Each of these courses requires a series of short papers. Students receive regular feedback from their instructor on their writing. Because academic writing is a main focus, the student must complete every required paper in order to receive a passing grade for these courses, and each course must be successfully completed before students may register for the next course in the Writing Program.

Semester Project

The Semester Project is undertaken by selected Weekday students during Writing Week, which follows the end of classes each semester. It focuses on a topic the student chooses in conjunction with a faculty advisor, usually the student’s writing instructor for that semester. The paper or project does not receive a grade but is the subject of a discussion between the student, the advisor, and the student’s faculty members for that semester at the student’s Final Conference. No student can register for a subsequent semester until the Semester Project has been deemed acceptable.

Comprehensive Examinations

Following completion of the Basic Studies (1 and 2 level) Core Courses, students are required to demonstrate their skills on the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination. After completing the Area Studies (3 and 4 level) Core Courses in one area, normally the area in

which they are concentrating, students are required to demonstrate their skills in that area on the Area Studies Comprehensive Examination. These examinations are offered during Writing Week at the end of each semester to Weekday students and in May to Weekend students. Both of these examinations require substantial reading and writing; an oral portion may also be required.

Research Paper

The Research Paper serves as an intermediate step between the shorter papers required in the Basic Studies Core Courses and the Senior Thesis. It is required in Social Sciences 3; additionally, it may be written in partial fulfillment of the course requirements for any other advanced course except for Integrative Studies 5 or 6 if this option is offered by the course instructor. Students with fewer than 30 transfer credits must successfully complete the Research Paper prior to registering for Integrative Studies 5; all others must achieve this before registering for Integrative Studies 6.

Senior Thesis

The Senior Thesis is an in-depth inquiry into a question or topic of the student's choice, representing the culmination of the student's academic experience at Shimer. The Thesis is guided by a faculty member chosen by the student, with another faculty member serving as a second reader. It is therefore an ideal opportunity for each student to work closely with members of the Shimer faculty.

The Thesis is undertaken and completed over the course of the student's senior year in conjunction with Integrative Studies 5-6, and counts for 5 credits in all. It can take various forms. Most students choose to write analytical or expository essays, but others compose fiction or poetry, create performance pieces, or fashion works of visual art. In all cases, the Thesis gives students the opportunity to pursue and refine the intellectual interests they have developed at Shimer. Successful completion of the thesis indicates the student's readiness for graduation from Shimer College. Students wishing to defend their thesis orally are encouraged to do so. Such defenses are open to the public.

The Senior Thesis offers students the opportunity to demonstrate qualities cultivated at Shimer College, including the following:

- **Academic Achievement:** Students challenge themselves by deeply investigating an important topic of their own choosing. The process of researching and completing the Thesis hones their ability to conduct research, to analyze and synthesize information, and to communicate effectively about what has been learned.
- **Personal Accomplishment:** While most first-year Shimer students wonder how they will ever be able to complete a Senior Thesis, those who reach their final year are well prepared to do so. Shimer students typically increase their academic self-confidence enormously by the time they reach their senior year. This is underscored by the sense of accomplishment that accompanies the completion of the Thesis.
- **Communication Skills:** The process of completing the Senior Thesis demands and nurtures communication skills. The student gets the opportunity to work closely with a member of the faculty and to share the progress of her or his work with fellow seniors.

- Professional and Graduate School Preparation: Few U.S. colleges and universities require a Senior Thesis, so the Thesis helps Shimer students stand out when applying to professional and graduate schools. Not only does it show that the student has the tools required to successfully complete a Master's thesis, but it also demonstrates high-level academic skills and indicates that the student has the focus and determination to succeed.
- Career Preparation: Any student who completes a Senior Thesis at Shimer College has proven that he or she is capable of completing a demanding and time-consuming assignment. It further demonstrates that the student is able to work independently at a high level of intellectual and personal competence.

In short, the Senior Thesis provides many benefits to the Shimer student. The student who successfully completes such a Thesis is prepared for a variety of challenges and opportunities upon graduating from Shimer.

Degrees

Shimer College is authorized by the State of Illinois to confer the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts (Humanities)
- Bachelor of Arts (Natural Sciences)
- Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences)
- Bachelor of Arts (Liberal Studies)
- Bachelor of Science (Humanities)
- Bachelor of Science (Natural Sciences)
- Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)

Currently, graduation from Shimer College is contingent upon fulfilling the following requirements:

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Total course requirements: 125 semester-hours credit

30 semester-hours: Basic Studies Courses

30 semester-hours: Area Studies Courses

20 semester-hours: Integrative Studies Courses

40 semester-hours: Elective Courses

5 semester-hours: Senior Thesis

Concentration: Of the 40 semester hours of elective credit, at least 30 must be in one area of concentration, unless the student has chosen to pursue a Liberal Studies degree.

Students who desire to specialize in more than one area of concentration are required to complete at least thirty semester hours in each.

Examinations: Degree candidates must successfully complete an examination in mathematics, the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination, and at least one Area Studies Comprehensive Examination.

Writing Projects: Degree candidates must successfully complete all required Writing Week Projects, a Research Paper, and a Senior Thesis.

Grades: A cumulative grade-point average of "C" (2.0) or higher is required for graduation.

Recommendation: Recommendation by the faculty and its acceptance by the Board of Trustees.

Bachelor of Science Degree

Total course requirements: 125 semester-hours credit

30 semester hours: Basic Studies Courses

10 semester hours: Area Studies Courses

20 semester hours: Integrative Studies Courses

60 semester hours: Elective Courses

5 semester-hours: Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree must have at least 40 transferable semester hours, 20 of them in their intended major area, as determined by the Dean's Office prior to enrollment at Shimer.

Concentration: Of the 60 semester-hours of elective credit, at least thirty must be in one area of concentration. Such students must successfully complete at least 45 semester hours of upper-level work. Students who desire to concentrate in more than one area of concentration are required to complete at least thirty semester hours in each.

Comprehensive Examinations: Degree candidates must successfully complete an examination in mathematics, the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination, and at least one Area Studies Comprehensive Examination.

Writing Projects: Degree candidates must successfully complete all required Writing Week projects, semester papers, a Research Paper, and a Senior Thesis.

Grades: A cumulative grade-point average of "C" (2.0) or higher is required for graduation.

Recommendation: Recommendation by the faculty and its acceptance by the Board of Trustees.

Second Bachelor's Degree

Students desiring to obtain a second bachelor's degree from Shimer will be permitted to transfer credits from their previous degree program as appropriate. These students then take the core and elective courses needed to fulfill Shimer's degree requirements.

Campus

Shimer College is located on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). In addition to administrative and classroom space, Shimer has its own student lounge, bookstore, library, student life & computer center, and community programming area. IIT

provides student housing and many other amenities including food service, student organizations, health and counseling services, recreational facilities, computer access, and a large academic library. Many buildings on the campus were designed by Ludwig Miles van der Rohe, one of the 20th century's most influential architects, who directed the IIT architecture program from 1938 to 1958. The American Institute of Architects recognizes the IIT campus as one of the 200 most significant works of architecture in the United States.

Student Service Fees

Shimer students pay service and technology fees which provide them with various Shimer programming and services, technology access and support, and library and bookstore access. Student service fees also provide Shimer students with access to all programming, student organizations, and campus activities that are available through IIT's Student Life program; access and use of IIT services including (but not limited to) the Counseling Center, Health Services, Galvin Library, Keating Recreational Center, Student Center for Inclusion & Diversity, Women's Services, Career Management Center, Leadership Academy, Office of Spirituality & Service Learning, Shuttle Service, and Public Safety. Student service fees also provide Shimer students with wireless computer access anywhere on the IIT campus, as well as printing capability at student computer areas.

Office of Student Life

Shimer's Office of Student Life (OSL) provides activities and services in the areas of programming, community development, career development, service learning, education and leadership development, personal development, information & referral, student conduct, advocacy, orientation, and support services. OSL presents diverse campus programming including social events, trips, forums, community events, public lectures, theatre events, and collaborative events with IIT and VanderCook students. Two annual Shimer traditions take place every semester: Orange Horse (talent performance night) and Solidarity (end of semester community celebration). OSL also coordinates Shimer access and involvement with the many programs and services available through IIT.

Housing & Dining Services

The majority of first-year Weekday Program students live on campus in one of the IIT residence halls. Upperclass students live predominantly in local apartments in the surrounding Bronzeville and Bridgeport communities. Off-campus apartments within blocks of Shimer are readily available and generally quite reasonable in cost. First-year students living on campus are required to participate in one of IIT's meal plans; off-campus students are also welcome to do so. Students have several pre-purchase meal options, good at various food service venues on the campus.

Transportation

Public transportation is plentiful with the immediate campus served by both the Green and Red Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) "L" lines. Full-time students receive a CTA UPass each semester as part of their required student fees. The UPass provides unlimited access to all CTA trains and buses. IIT also offers a shuttle bus service which operates regularly between the main IIT campus and the downtown area during rush hour on weekdays. The shuttle bus is free to Shimer students.

Health & Counseling Services

Shimer students have full access to the extensive health and counseling services at IIT. Student health insurance, which is provided through IIT, is required for students who do not have insurance through their parents or employers.

Career Services

Shimer offers a variety of career development services including workshops and individual assistance with job-seeking skills and strategies, on- and off-campus student employment, career planning, internship opportunities, graduate school assistance, and post-graduation employment. Shimer sponsors a competitive summer internship program which offer several students each year challenging and rewarding experiences. Shimer students are also able to utilize services, career fairs, and other activities that are available through the IIT Career Management Center.

Library

The Shimer College Library offers access to print, media, and online databases. The Shimer collection, housed in two locations, includes reference materials, books which supplement the core curriculum, career and graduate study resources, a small film collection, and several academic and business databases. The Library Director provides reference and interlibrary borrowing services, database workshops and individual training sessions, and advice on career and graduate school options, resume writing, and internships. Shimer's library has comfortable space for students to read, write, and study.

A block from Shimer's front door is IIT's main library, the Paul V. Galvin Library, where Shimer students enjoy full privileges. The Galvin Library offers access to books and journals in academic disciplines such as engineering and computer science. It has a substantial print reference collection, government documents, a Leisure Reading Collection, and online databases. In addition, several thousand books from the Shimer College library are housed in the Galvin Library (second floor, northwest corner).

Other campus libraries which may have resources of interest to Shimer students include:

- The Graham Resource Center, which serves the research and information needs of the IIT College of Architecture
- The Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions library, located in IIT's Hermann Hall
- The downtown IIT campus Library, which supports the professional programs of the Chicago-Kent College of Law and the Stuart Graduate School of Business
- The Harry Ruppel Memorial Library at VanderCook College of Music

Computer & Technology Facilities

Within the Student Life Center, Shimer hosts student computer stations which offer word processing, printing, and internet access at no cost. Shimer's technology staff is available to help students individually with computer and technology issues and concerns. Shimer students also are able to use student computer and printing stations located throughout the IIT campus, as well as enjoying wireless access on campus. IIT offers a full range of Computer Science courses which are open to Shimer students.

Recreation & Fitness

Students are encouraged to participate in recreational activities sponsored by Shimer and IIT as well as those offered throughout Chicago. IIT recreational facilities include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, indoor track, gymnasium, racquetball courts, basketball courts, fitness center, and weight rooms which are available to Shimer students at no cost beyond their required student service fees. IIT's intramural program offers competition in basketball, handball, racquetball, softball, tennis, touch football, swimming, cross-country, and volleyball. IIT also offers a variety of fitness activities including yoga, tai chi, dance, and martial arts. Recreational activities, open swimming hours, and open court time is available in IIT's Keating Athletic & Recreational Center.

Admission

Shimer College aims to select students who will benefit from and contribute to its intellectual community. Each applicant is considered on an individual basis. Motivation, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to a rigorous and integrative educational program are important qualifications. Shimer will consider the application of any individual who has the potential to perform well in the College environment. Shimer is committed to equal educational opportunity. It is Shimer's policy to seek a diverse student body that is unified by its commitment to a common educational endeavor.

Shimer admits students for both the fall and spring semesters. Students are usually informed of admission decisions within four weeks of submitting the following admission documents:

1. Application fee of \$25 by check or money order payable to Shimer College
2. Official high school transcripts
3. A letter of recommendation
4. Official SAT or ACT scores (optional)
5. An interview conducted on campus or by phone
6. Official transcripts from each college attended (if applicable)
7. Two carefully written, typed, and substantive essays on the following topics:
 - a. Describe an educational experience which you found to be rewarding or frustrating.
 - b. What book have you read recently that you found especially significant or valuable? What difference has it made in your life?As an alternative to the questions listed, applicants may elect to submit a portfolio of two or three examples of expository writing of high quality.

The writing samples and interview will be heavily weighed by the Admission Committee to make its evaluation. There is no minimum grade-point average or minimum test score

required for admission to Shimer College. All applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the College.

Shimer College welcomes homeschooled students. Applicants are asked to submit the documents listed above. In place of the formal high school transcript applicants are asked to submit a narrative describing the curriculum followed and the student's progress, along with a statement indicating that the student has completed high school.

International students for whom English is a second language are asked to submit TOEFL scores as part of their application for admission to Shimer. These will be used in determining such students' preparedness to benefit from a Shimer education.

Weekend Program

Applicants for admission to the Weekend Program are normally mature individuals who have been out of high school for a number of years. Several factors are involved in assessing maturity: age, family responsibilities, job experience, and previous college experience. Transfer students and adults who made the decision to leave the academic world after high school are encouraged to apply. Adults without a high school diploma may be asked to demonstrate their readiness for a program such as Shimer's by means of additional written requirements. In certain cases, these students will be required to obtain the GED in order to comply with state and federal regulations.

Transfer

Students who have earned college credit at other degree-granting institutions are considered by Shimer College to be transfer students. Transfer students are expected to submit transcripts of all academic work embarked upon at other institutions. The transfer to Shimer College of credits earned at other institutions is dependent on two factors: the particular degree program in which the student is enrolled at Shimer, and the appropriateness of the transfer courses to the requirements of the degree program in which they are enrolled. Only courses for which a grade of "C" or better has been received may be transferred. To assure the transfer of credit, final transcripts must be submitted to the College prior to registration.

Early Enrollment

Early Enrollment is an option for students who are 18 years or younger who do not have a high school diploma or a GED and are not being homeschooled. While these Early Entrants may have completed some college work, it may not exceed 59 semester hours at a college, university, or community college. Homeschooled students should consult the Concurrent Enrollment section of the catalog (below) or contact the Office of Admission.

In reviewing applications for Early Enrollment, the Admission Committee emphasizes GPA, class rank, and scores on achievement tests which may include SAT, SAT II, and ACT. Evidence of Advanced Placement, participation in the International Baccalaureate, and/or college level course work while in high school will strengthen the student's application.

In addition to the documents enumerated for admission to the College, Early Enrollment applicants must submit two academic letters of recommendation and ACT or SAT scores.

Each Early Entrant at Shimer College is in the top quartile of at least one of the following:

- High School class rank OR
- GPA OR
- ACT or SAT scores

B.A. to J.D. Program

Admission to the B.A. to J.D. Program (see page 5) is based on academic ability, recommendations, personal qualities and co-curricular activities. Students who apply to the program prior to the beginning of their freshman year are expected to:

- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Have a minimum composite score of 26 on the ACT or 1800 on the SAT
- Arrange for and complete a mandatory interview

Applicants must submit a Shimer application for admission and indicate that they are applying for the B.A. to J.D. Program by April 15 of their senior year of high school, and arrange for Shimer to receive their high school transcript, SAT 1 or ACT scores, and two recommendations from high school teachers.

Students who have not been accepted into the B.A. to J.D. Program prior to enrolling at Shimer are welcome to apply to the program after enrolling. Such students are expected to apply by April 15 of their second full year of enrollment at Shimer. Applicants are expected to:

- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Arrange for and complete a mandatory interview

All applications for the “Great Books + Law” Program will be reviewed by admission staff from Shimer and Chicago-Kent as well as the Shimer College Dean’s Office.

Concurrent Enrollment

Students who are enrolled in high school, or are of high school age and are being home schooled, and would like to enroll concurrently as an Occasional Student at Shimer College may do so with approval from the Dean of the College. The following documents are required to complete an application for Concurrent Enrollment:

1. Occasional Student Application for Shimer College
2. High school or homeschool transcript. A homeschool transcript may be in a format designed by the homeschool parent to report curriculum followed and student progress through that curriculum.
3. A two or three paragraph statement from the student, which should include the following:
 - What class the student would like to take
 - Why he or she would like to take this class
 - The benefit he or she hopes to gain from the class

4. The student may be required to meet with the Dean of the College for an informal interview before the student is permitted to enroll.

Special Students

The status of Special Student is applied to non-matriculating students registered with the permission of the Dean of the College. Special Students are limited to ten credit hours in any one semester and no more than a total of thirty credit hours in all under this status. Special Student status is granted for a period of one semester; students who wish to continue this status must reapply each semester. Special students who desire to enroll in a degree program must formally apply for admission to the College. For those who go on to enroll as regularly-matriculating students, credits earned as a Special Student will be counted toward degree fulfillment.

Auditors

Upon approval of the Dean of the College and the course instructor, any individual may audit any Shimer course for a pre-set fee on a space-available basis. Auditors may request that the credit fee be adjusted, according to documentation of need. Any regularly enrolled full-time student may audit a single course free of charge during any given semester.

Senior Audit Option

Upon approval of the Dean of the College, Shimer College offers a special financial rate for mature citizens and persons on a fixed income. The Senior Audit Option is available for both the Weekday and Weekend Programs. Requirements for this special rate are that students are over 60 years of age and can document their financial need. Courses are available on a space-only basis, and are of noncredit "audit" status. Those auditing courses in the Weekend Program will be charged for meals and accommodations, where applicable.

Financial Aid

Shimer College holds that quality education should remain affordable and that no student should be denied a Shimer education because of costs. The College is not able to meet all financial need for all students, but the Office of Financial Aid endeavors to provide generous merit- and need-based scholarships to eligible students. Shimer College has a number of internal scholarships and other programs to help make enrollment possible.

To be considered for Shimer scholarships and need-based aid, students must complete an Application for Admission to Shimer and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. Shimer also recommends that students apply for outside scholarships, which can be found, free, through various online resources like FastWeb.

The Financial Aid Office will review the FAFSA of each student and inform the student of any additional awards for which he or she is eligible. The award may be accepted by the student or appealed to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The Committee will consider such items as the student's financial need, special circumstances, academic record, timeliness of application, full use of Federal and State awards, and funds available in making a decision to increase the amount of Shimer College aid. For more information, please call the Office of Financial Aid at (312) 235-3507.

College Governance

As a function of its mission to promote active citizenship, Shimer College is devoted to internal self-governance to an extent that is rare among institutions of higher education. Since 1977, Shimer College has largely been governed, within the institution, by the faculty, students, and staff working together within a structure of committees, administrative offices, and a working body of the whole, the Assembly. Students are represented on almost every major committee, and some serve as voting members of the Board of Trustees. While the Board has ultimate legal authority over the College (see “The Fine Print”), the Assembly and its committees serve in important roles both internally and as advisors to the Board on matters of college-wide significance.

The Assembly is the broadest governance structure of Shimer: everyone at the College is welcome to participate. The Assembly deliberates matters which affect the integrity of Shimer College as a community. The Assembly is a democratic legislature: it defines and protects the basic moral law or essential ethos of the College. The form and major responsibilities of the Assembly are symbolic of Shimer’s commitment to the pursuit of truth and intellectual honesty. The Assembly thus serves to nurture the spirit of true dialog as well as the habits of public responsibility.

Ethics Statement

Shimer College is a dialogical, self-governing academic community committed to the intellectual and personal development of each of its members. Members of this community are entitled to expect that all Shimerians will

- Act responsibly, practicing integrity both inside and outside the classroom
- Demonstrate respect for and sensitivity to the ideas, feelings, and needs of others
- Seek dialog with those with whom we are in serious conflict
- Deal honestly with ourselves and all other members of the Shimer community to the best of our ability
- The aforementioned principles prohibit lying, cheating, stealing, abuse, and all other violations of the persons, offices, and policies of Shimer College

Approved by the Assembly of Shimer College, November 20, 1994.

The Fine Print

All statements in this Catalog reflect the approved policies of Shimer College as of July 1, 2011. The College reserves the right to change any of the statements, procedures, regulations, fees, or conditions contained herein without notice.

Policy of Non-Discrimination

Shimer College does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, religion, sexual orientation including gender identity, national origin, or disability in admittance of students, granting of financial aid, or hiring and retention of faculty, staff, and other employees. Shimer College is firmly committed to the development and maintenance of equal opportunity and affirmative action in all aspects of the College.

Shimer College is a not-for-profit organization operating under the laws of the State of Illinois. As such, it has a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees in which is vested the authority and the responsibility for the operation and management of the affairs and the property of the College.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Shimer College is the ultimate legal authority of the College. The Board delegates to the President of the College such authority as it deems desirable. It also delegates certain authority to the faculty as a body and to the Dean of the College as head of the faculty. It may not, however, delegate responsibility and remains ultimately responsible not only for its own acts but also for the legal entity which, as the law states, can “sue and be sued” in the name of Shimer College. Accordingly, any delegation of powers continues only so long as the Board of Trustees is satisfied that those to whom power is delegated are exercising it responsibly and equitably.

Accreditation Status

Shimer College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools:

The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1413
Phone: 800.621.7440 / 312.263.0456 . Fax: 312.263.7462 . info@hlcommission.org

Memberships

Shimer College is a member of the following organizations:

- Association of Core Texts and Courses
- Council of Independent Colleges
- Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

Drug Policy Statement

Shimer College is fully compliant with the provisions of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226).

Financial Statements

Financial Statements for Shimer College's most recent fiscal year are available upon request from the Chief Financial Officer, Shimer College, 3424 South State Street, Chicago IL 606



